WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 SEPTEMBER 1991

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET MOVING RIGHT ALONG

Our museum house is looking more and more settled at 500 North Main Street. Its block foundation has been faced with the hand made bricks salvaged from the house's original foundation. (The bricks were cleaned and prepared for re-use by Kevin Busch of Boy Scout Troup 4, as an Eagle Scout project.)

We were lucky to discover more of the hand made bricks behind the wall of the house--put there for insulation against the cold Michigan winters.

These enabled us to face the exterior stairway without using any new bricks. Fieldstone covers the foundation at the back, as it did originally.

The site is now graded, the concrete driveway approaches, paths and steps around the house are finished. Dale Krull Construction was the low bidder for this site work. They did an excellent job for us.

Ann Arbor Construction donated a portion of the concrete. We are very grateful to them, as we are to Killins Concrete Company for donating the concrete for the entire basement.

Installation of the driveway/parking lot remains to be done. We may delay this until after we do the roof. The heavy trucks required for demolition of the old roof would add unnecessary wear and tear to a new asphalt surface.

We would like to replace the roof with a more historically accurate cedar shingle roof. Initially we had decided not to do the roof right now, but the rear roof has leaks and problems.

Rather than patch, then replace in a few years, we would like to go ahead now with a new roof.

Replacement later would be very disruptive to a functioning museum. Doing the "right" roof in cedar will be more expensive, but worth it in the long run, in appearance and quality.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in our attempt to obtain a grant to do the roof from the Ann Arbor Area Foundation. We will approach other funding sources soon in hopes of better luck.

At this point we have raised about $200,000, half of our $400,000 goal. We are very pleased to be in a position where available funds are still ahead of our bills.

If you were thinking about donating to the Museum again, or for the first time, we have lots of work left to be done, and a number of urgent needs besides a new roof.

As soon as we turn our attention to the inside of the house, we will be working on a handicap accessible bathroom, climate control, sprinkler and alarm system, some replastering, wiring, lights, and equipment for storage and display, to mention a few. We have a way to go before opening our doors as a museum.

The contributions, care, involvement, concern, interest and energy of so many have propelled this project a long way indeed. We are moving right along.

Karen O'Neal
665-2242

FROM THE PRESIDENT
WCHS MUSEUM FUND RAISING PROJECT HALFWAY TOWARD $400,000 GOAL; OPEN HOUSE PLANNED SOON

Our work with the campaign committee to solicit funds to restore our Museum on Main Street has been quite rewarding. We are now at the half-way point of meeting our goal of $300,000 to restore our 1830's building plus another $100,000 to ensure enough funds to open and operate MOMS for two years.

Over 250 contributions of cash and/or in-kind goods have been received, and we now embark on the second phase of our fund drive. Our next projects include installing climate control systems, cedar shake roof with copper gutters and downspouts, the handicap accessible restroom, wet plastering, and security systems.

David Pollock and Cliff Sheldon are busy working with the campaign committee contacting additional con-

(Continued on page 6)

WCHS TO VISIT STADIUM PRESS BOX SEPTEMBER 22, TO HEAR HOWARD KING

More than 100,000 persons, local and out-of-town, crowd into University of Michigan Stadium on several fall Saturdays each year but few ever have been in the Press Box.

WCHS will kick-off its 1991-92 fall season by visiting the Press Box at 2 p.m. Sunday, September 22, to hear Howard King, the voice of Michigan Stadium for 20 years, talk about "Michigan Stadium."

The Stadium, which opened in 1927, was the second in the United States built into the side of a hill. Yale was the first. The UM site presented some special engineering problems.

Those attending may drive in Gate 2 off Stadium Blvd. near Crisler Area and park inside the fence. Questions? Call Pauline Walters, 662-9092, or Donald C. Smith, M.D., 662-5454.

GARDEN WALK YIELDS $7,000 FOR WCHS MUSEUM LANDSCAPING PROJECT

The Ann Arbor Farm and Garden Association's Garden Walk June 8 was a huge success for them and the Washtenaw County Historical Society which was given the $7,000 proceeds to landscape the Museum on Main Street.

More than 1,000 tickets were sold. Visitors came from Lansing, Jackson and Detroit. The weather was great. Thanks, one and all.

Camille Severance, Ann Rubin and Sheila Sikkenga and their committees were the driving forces behind this event. The garden owners who generously opened their gardens were Darragh and Robert Weisman, Clan Crawford, Ann Schriber and Karlene Kulp.

Fifty-eight persons attended the WCHS luncheon that day and heard Scott Kunst, landscape historian, talk on "Gardening with Antique Flowers." (See story, page 2.)

FASHIONS IN FLOWERS

A TRIP DOWN HISTORIC GARDEN PATHS

"If one hundred years from now somebody hired my grandson to do a restoration landscape for one of your gardens, what might be some of the typical plants?" Scott Kunst asked the WCHS June audience.

Kunst, a landscape historian, spoke on "Gardening with Antique Flowers"at the WCHS-sponsored luncheon at Matthaei Botanical Gardens held in conjunction with the Ann Arbor Farm and Garden Association's first "Garden Walk."

The Association generously donated all proceeds of the first walk toward landscaping the new WCHS Museum on Main Street.

"What are typical 1991 garden plants? In shade now most people grow impatiens and hosta. That was much less common 25 years ago. Fashions change in flowers just like anything else. The focus of our interests change, so our plant choices change too."

"Typical plants of today are daylilies, petunias, geraniums, marigolds and coreopsis", he said.

"There are a lot of new varieties of coreopsis coming--there is an increasing interest in hybridizing native American plants now."

"Gerbera, a bedding plant out of South Africa, is so new I don't know how to say it. Garden magazines are full of ornamental grasses now."

Kunst then outlined four key periods in American landscape history.

In the first period, from earliest settlement in the Midwest, 1800-1850s, there were pioneer and Greek Revival landscapes. They were followed by the mid-century romantic landscapes inspired by Andrew Jackson Downing, 1845-1875, late Victorian landscapes to 1910 or so and finally, early 20th century cottage or grandmother's gardens to World War II.

PIONEER AND GREEK REVIVAL LANDSCAPES, 1800-1855

"The earliest landscapes were very simple. People were busy providing for survival. They did bring ornamental plants with them, but they were,not a focus of gardening effort.

"Before long more settled conditions brought Greek Revival and one-and-a-half story New England cottages. We still see them throughout the country and in older neighborhoods.

Photos courtesy of Scott Kunst

Daffodil from centennial farm. Note that petals sweep forward unlike modern daffodils.

"They might have a couple of lilacs or old roses--that was about it."

An atlas drawing of a Midwest farm home had a fenced, plain front yard. In New England there often would have been a parlor garden in front with lots of flowers, he noted. Usually there would be a fenced kitchen garden at the side or in back where a lot of vegetables were grown and perhaps some ornamental plants.

"The typical old English garden plan would have straight paths quartering the garden into rectangular beds, with some sort of protective wall around the whole thing to keep rabbits and everything else out."

SELF-SOWING ANNUALS AND BIENNIALS

"In those gardens we saw a lot of plants that can take care of themselves. Self-sowing annuals and biennials, for example, were very common--Johnny-Jump-Ups, forget-me-nots, calendula or pot marigold, larkspur and ladyslipper or balsam.

"Sometimes plants escape and become weeds like dame's rocket. It looks like phlox but blooms much too early.

"People often consider hollyhocks the historic, antique, nostalgic plant bar none. Single hollyhocks are often preferred for nostalgic effects but in the 19th century and even back in the 1600s, double hollyhocks were available and prized.

"This is a good example of how a lot of what we think we know about historic plants is actually misinformation. Not too many people have studied this field until recently.

"When you read 19th century materials though, a lot of plants grown in the past are familiar today, others have dropped out of our gardens.

"For example, near the end of the 19th century people always grew *annual* chrysanthemums but today we rarely do. ANother old forgotten one I'm trying out this summer is dwarf or bush morning glory (*Ipomoea tricolor*).

"As I said, things that would return on their own were important and that included tough perennials.

"Peonies were especially popular. The oldest peonies are the European ones, *Paeonia officinalis*. The deep red double form, often called Memorial Day peony, was common throughout the country. In the 19th century we got Chinese peonies. They are the ones that fill the Arboretum beds.

"The U-M has a map of the peony garden in the Arboretum out now so you can figure out the names of those plants and perhaps track them down. Many of them are out of commerce now.

"Many old plants--we don't know their names, we can't get them from nurseries, but we do find them outside our fence, down the street, in a cemetery or at an abandoned country homesite. The old varieties survive in the landscape, but we frequently don't recognize them.

"Also tough are violets. Before we had crocus, violets took their place in people's affections because they bloomed so early. They were wonderfully scented too. That was a virtue in these early plants that people appreciated, I think, more than we do today.

"Yucca is another perennial that is very long-lived. You find them in old dry cemeteries where they've gotten absolutely no care. They look exotic but they've been around a long time in Midwestern gardens.

"Daylilies came into Europe in the late 1500s. The orange ones have always been more vigorous, more common. Many people think it's a native plant but it's not. The lemon lily blooms at the same time and has a nice lemony scent and lingers in many out of the way places.

"How many grow gas plant (*Dictamnus albus*)? There is a pink form too. It's very long lived but hard to transplant and hard to catch the seeds because the little capsules burst. It was very popular in the 19th century

and before."

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH GARDEN PLANTS

"Many perennials were traditional English garden plants. Foxglove is an English native plant and has long been used in their gardens.

"English daisies--I've never had a lot of luck growing them but in Forest Hill Cemetery in spring, in many sections you'll find the grass carpeted with little low white English daisies.

"Primrose is another English wildflower taken into gardens that was popular in early American gardens also."

He showed a kind of European columbine without spurs, occasionally available today. His didn't make it through last winter.

"Lily of the valley was a very popular plant in English and early American gardens, with a very strong fragrance. It takes care of itself and spreads."

BULBS

"Dutch bulbs were expensive and most didn't last very well. Daffodils weren't very popular in the north. For summer bulbs about all they had was the Madonna lily. It has probably my favorite floral scent and goes back to the palaces in Crete about 1700 B.C."

NATIVE PLANTS

"In pioneer gardens, people also frequently brought in native plants, such as butterfly weed and bloodroot.

ROMANTIC LANDSCAPES

"Andrew Jackson Downing, architectural and garden writer of the 1840s, wrote about the new wave in American gardens. The kitchen garden was still laid out in rectangles but the rest of the yard had curving paths and plants laid out in sort of naturalistic groupings.

"It was sometime after this before most people actually started putting curves into the landscape.

"The architecture of the period was Gothic with central, heavenward pointing gables and pointed arched windows or Italiannate with flattish roofs and overhangs supported by brackets, a couple of romantic styles to match the new romantic aesthetic in landscaping.

"From mid-century on we tend to see more crowded landscapes and the beginnings of bedding out. These were small flower beds set in the middle of the lawn or along a path, often circular or crescent shaped. At first it was recommended that you plant just one kind of plant in a bed."

NEW ANNUALS

"New annuals were most often used in bedding. Verbenas were just coming out of South America then and they were very popular. They are popular again today because they will keep going all summer long like petunias. Older annuals like larkspur bloom and are gone.

"Dahlias, tender Central American plants, were popular in the 1840s and '50s. Like people are breeding all sorts of new varieties of daylilies today, that's what they were doing with dahlias then.

"Also popular was mignonette which doesn't look like much but is valued for its fragrance. Downing recommended planting beds of it in the lawn. To me it looks like a cauliflower gone wrong and the scent seems to have lost something through the centuries.

"Another important annual for simple bedding was Chinese aster, another plant out of the Orient, which in the 19th century was the most important hunting ground for new plants.

"A D.M. Ferry seed catalog of the 1870s had nasturtiums, poppies and Chinese asters on the cover. With poppies, for example, they elaborated all sorts of new varieties of what was essentially an ancient plant and every little bit of difference was celebrated in seed catalogs.

"Also popular in the mid-19th century were some Oriental lilies. The tiger lily was first to arrive."

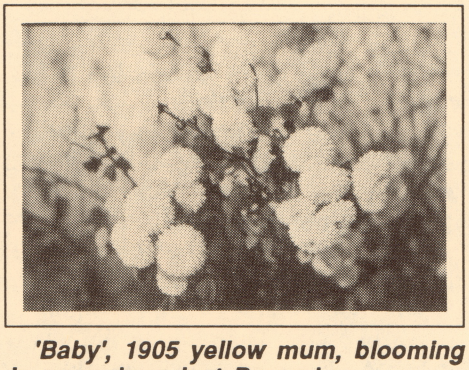
VINES

"Vines were a key feature of the mid-19th century landscape. It was romantic to cover up your old architecture and make it look exotic and new. Typically they were grown without a trellis, simply twining around porch columns and garlanded along the roof of the porch or on strings.

"Some important vines were trumpet creeper, a very tough plant, native Virginia creeper and clematis. The first hybrid clematis, the big flowered ones like *Clematis jackmanii*, dark purple, were hybridized in the 1850s, but they don't seem to have reached American gardens till later in the century.

"Wisteria was a wonderful, popular, mid-to-late Victorian vine as well as Hall's honeysuckle which arrived after the Civil War from the Orient.

"The hyacinth bean and morning glory were popular annual vines. There were a wide range of colors in morning glories although the wonderful 'Heavenly Blue' is a 20th century cultivar."



'Baby', 1905 yellow mum, blooming in snow here last December.

LATE VICTORIAN LANDSCAPES

"The third period, late Victorian, was basically an evolution of the mid-century landscape. The architecture was Queen Anne with its diversity of wall surfaces, shapes and colors, and elaborate patterning. We see that in the garden as well."

An 1870s garden book showed an overcrowded garden versus a correctly planted one which was still fairly crowded. If you read enough you find that most people with any pretensions to gardening were overcrowding their yards.

"Some of us, myself included, still have that problem today. It's Victorian excess. Carpet bedding was very popular. Simple bedding became elaborated into big designs. Magazines sold books of plans."

EXOTIC PLANTS

"Exotic plants were favored. The world was expanding. Communications and transportation technology developed. Steamships were going around the world and a lot of exotic plants were brought back. They were trying to make their gardens look like Borneo or something."

A sample "sub-tropical" round bed had castor beans in the middle with cannas around them, then elephant ears, red coleus and dusty miller. "Elephant ear is a summer bulb you dig up in the fall. It's very exotic looking, very late Victorian, and does well in the shade."

"We have become so accustomed to cannas that they have lost their exotic look. The oldest were valued for their foliage. Larger flowers were developed in the early 20th century."

FOLIAGE PLANTS

"Foliage plants of all kinds were valued in carpet bedding including succulents like hen-and-chicks. Coleus was a new plant in the last quarter of the 19th century. The gold and red leaf varieties seem to be the oldest.

"Golden feather or golden feverfew is a wonderful little plant, a chartreuse-leaved form of ordinary feverfew."

BEDDING PLANTS

"Geraniums were the most popular bedding plant. Fancy leaf geraniums were popular. Many of them were planted out in cast iron urns or 'vases' on the front lawn." He grows a 19th century variety called 'Mrs. Henry Cox'."

Some important annuals were nasturtium, cockscomb and annual or Drummond's phlox. He grows a red nasturtium, 'Empress of India' from the 1890s, still available, and annual phlox, 'Brilliant' from the 1880s, which reseeds in his garden and is still available.

"In the 1880s every little distinction in Drummond's phlox varieties was exciting and new. We have that sort of thing today with hosta and daylilies.

"For spring bedding, pansies were very popular. At the turn of the century, Burpee was selling more pansy seed than any other seed.

"Some important perennials from the last quarter of the 1800s were bleeding heart, some new species of daylily; the 'August lily', the white, fragrant, August-blooming *Host plantaginea*; and more oriental lilies including *Lilium speciosum* 'Rubrum' and the gold-band lily."

CONSERVATORY AND HOUSE PLANTS

"Interest in conservatory and house plants increased. Forcing bulbs indoors was popular. Fancy leaf geraniums were popular house plants."

There was a real craze for ferns (outdoors and in), particularly in England but also here, also for fuchsia. Many old fuchsia are still available including one he showed from 1884.

NOSTALGIC COTTAGE GARDENS, 1900-1945

"The fourth period is the early 20th century. This is the period many of you grew up with.

"The architecture of the period rejected the Queen Anne aesthetic with its busy patterning and looked back to simpler models. We had colonial revival houses for the first time.

"It was an age of nostalgia for the pre-industrial period. Even the popular new bungalow emphasized old-fashioned craftsmanship and simplicity of materials."

PERENNIALS, HERB GARDENS

"This was the time for cottage or grandmother's gardens--a mingled melange of old-fashioned perennials, a mixture of heights and colors, sort of the antithesis of the regimented neat little designs of carpet bedding.

"We also saw ornamental herb gardens for the first time. Before that herbs would have been in with the vegetables.

"Victorians loved bright colors but the early 20th century had a liking for pastels. Bright red poppies, popular earlier, still were but new kinds were in pastel shades.

"Garden or tall phlox were very popular, a native plant coming back to us from England actually. There are many old phlox out there but phlox self-sows pretty vigorously so it's hard to tell if you've got an old variety or something new, self-sown.

"Daylilies are a 1980s-1990s plant but the beginnings of hybridization date back to the 1920s or so. 'Hyperion' is a big yellow 1925 daylily that is still very popular.

"Peonies are an old-fashioned plant of enormous interest in the early 1900s and there were many new varieties then.

"Golden glow, a rudbeckia, grows six feet tall, flops all over the place, invades everywhere, but at the turn of the century it was new and they thought it was wonderful. It's so tough it's still around.

"Hardy native asters were very popular. Again, Britain took an interest in them and sent them back to us, improved." He showed 'Harrington's Pink', a very tall, fall-blooming aster from the 1930s.

"The regal lily came out of China in 1902 and became popular.

"Dahlias were popular again. 'Jersey's Beauty' from 1925 is the oldest variety I've been able to track down.

"Not all early 20th century gardens were perennial gardens but that was certainly the keynote. Annuals were used. Snapdragons and zinnias were popular. There were many new varieties of zinnias in this period.

"This was a time of great popularity of sweet peas. There were many new varieties. Rock gardens were popular for the first time.

"Spring bulbs were very popular, especially small ones such as snow drops and grape hyacinth that looked sort of natural and not all formal and flashy."

KUNST'S FAVORITE ANTIQUE FLOWERS

After talking about flowers of the four periods, Scott went on to focus on some of his favorite antique flowers--daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, pinks, iris and chrysanthemums.

DAFFODILS

"The earliest daffodils were Mediterranean wild flowers. By the 1600s they were well established in England as garden plants. *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* is a key species in development of modern trumpet daffodils.

"Someone sent this to me from up by Petoskey where it had been growing on the family's farm for a hundred years. The way the petals sort of sweep forward mark it as an older form. That's something that has been bred out. Double daffodils were popular in the 1600s and later with the Victorians." He showed 'Von Sion' which dates to the 1600s.

" 'Empress' and 'Emperor' are two of the oldest, named, 'modern' daffodils, introduced in England in the 1860s. They became the standard daffodils and best sellers into the 1920s at least. 'Empress' has a beautiful white perianth and yellow trumpet

"Now they are unavailable except from Sisters Bulb Farm in Louisiana that started selling them again last year.

"I've grown 'W.P. Miller' for a couple of years, a short daffodil, about ten inches tall. It dates to 1884. It's one of the few 19th century daffodils still available in commerce. 'King Alfred" dates to 1899 but really it's early 20th century--it takes a long time for plants to get into commerce and familiar to many."

He showed 'Mary Copeland', a double daffodil from 1914, 'Cheerfulness' from the 1920s, 'Thalia' from 1916, all still widely sold. 'February Gold' was introduced in 1923. 'Mrs. R.O. Backhouse', considered the first pink daffodil, actually more of an apricot, was introduced in the 1920s.

He showed an unidentified one from a neighbor's yard that he hopes to track down the name for. However, he noted, this is often very hard to do.

"Daffodils like 'Mrs. Backhouse'

deserve to be preserved, I think. You can't save every plant but something like 'Mrs. Backhouse' which was such an original plant and very popular for such a long time, it seems like it's a piece of history worth hanging onto. It's still available."

HYACINTHS

"The earliest illustration of hyacinths looks straggly, not a full flower head. They came into European gardens at the same time as tulips, but tulips caught everyone's attention. There wasn't much interest in hyacinths at first.

"Hyacinths are from Persia. English hyacinths are blue bells of a different genus. About the earliest named variety of hyacinth still available is 'King of Persia', an intense, deep dark, blue from 1863."

Others he showed were 'L'Innocence', 1863, ivory white; 'Oranje Boven', a soft peachy color, 1880; 'Distinction', 1880, described as beetroot red; 'City of Haarlem', 1863, yellow.

"At one time double hyacinths were the most popular because they looked the fullest on the stalk. 'Chestnut Flower', 1880, pink, double, is still available."

TULIPS

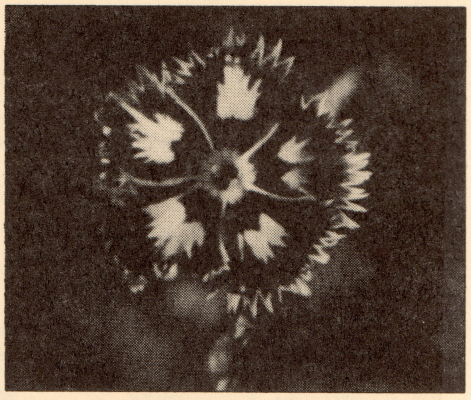
"Tulips first came to Europe in the late 1500s from Persia and the Middle East. The earliest tulips were small, pointed flowers. The oldest commercial named variety is 'Keizerskroon', 1750, bright red edged yellow with pointed petals."

'Prince of Austria', 1860, orangish red, fragrant, pointed petals, was available in North America from one supplier in Toronto until last year but has disappeared.

He got a white tulip streaked with purple from friends in England which dates to the late 19th century. This "broken" type, popular in the 1600s-1800s, is not commercially available except as modern 'Rembrandts'. A virus causes the streakings.

"There were both single and double tulips. 'Van der Neer', a mid- to late 19th century purple single tulip is short and stocky. 'Peach Blossom', 1890, is rose-pink and white double. There were many new tulips in the early 20th century." He showed 'General De Wet', orange, of 1904.

"Parrot tulips were reported in the literature back to the 1600s but they were always regarded as sort of a monstrosity. People might have grown one or two but it wasn't until the 20th century that they caught on more. Lily flowered tulips are strictly 20th century.



Dianthus 'Queen of Sheba', a fringed and vividly marked single pink, from the 1600s.

"Many people say the botanical tulips or the little species tulips belong in historic gardens. That's not necessarily so. Even if something was discovered in the 1620s doesn't mean it got into anybody's garden except for botanical or big collector's gardens. By and large it was the large garden tulips most people were growing.

"The botanical tulip, *Tulipa florentina*, did appear in some gardens including Thomas Jefferson's."

PINKS

"Pinks are related to carnations which are even older. Carnations were for rich people, pinks for poor. Pinks are tough, they stick around in gardens without much pampering."

He showed one he collected out in a cemetery and 'Queen of Sheba' which dates back to the 1600s. Others were 'Bat's Double Red', 1707; 'Colonel Musgrave's' pink, also called 'Green Eyes' or 'Jealousy', 1740s; 'Gloriosa', double, pink, late 1700s, and 'Lady Granville', 1840.

"In the 1700s they liked the streaking and flaking in multicolored petals and the new ideal was rounded smooth petals.

"A variation of the classic pink is a mule pink (crossed with sweet william). 'Emile Pare', 1840, with a nice salmony color, is concluding bloom right now," he said. "There are also annual Chinese pinks, *Dianthus chinensis*."

There are many different old varieties of sweet william. He didn't know how one he found in a cemetery held on so long in the shade and mowed down to an inch or two. It may be 'Harlequin', an early 20th century variety.

IRIS

"Many old iris remain. *Iris germanica*, deep blue, and 'Florentina' both go back to the 1500s. Florentina may look white from a distance but up close it has a pale, silvery gray look with a little bit of lavender in the middle."

Other old varieties shown were *Iris pallida,* early 1600s, pale blue; 'Sambucina', 1759, brownish purple standards and rosy purple falls; and 'Flavescenes', 1813, a pale yellow, almost white, iris that can be found in Ann Arbor's Old West Side and in country cemeteries.

"You must have seen 'Honorabile', short, two-foot tall, yellow and brown or maroon, very tough."

" 'Madame Chereau' was probably the most famous 19th century iris, a tall white with purple "stitching" around the petals. It is out of commerce now. New "plicata" varieties like it have supplanted it.

"One iris was sent to me as 'Innocenza', but now it seems maybe it isn't, because I got a different 'Innocenza' from a different commercial source. It has red veining instead of purple, it's shorter and doesn't have the same textures to the blossoms.

"You can never be sure what you are getting. If you are interested in historic plants, you always seek to verify their identities.

" Iris were wildly popular in the early 20th century. There were many, many new varieties."

He showed 'Wabash', introduced in the 1930s and still popular, with white edging around deep purple falls; unidentified early 1900s iris from a neighbor's yard; dwarf iris that grow six inches tall; a Siberian iris, 'Perry's Blue' from about 1912; and a Japanese iris, 1885, 'Gold Bound'.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

"I have a special interest in chrysanthemums but, unlike some other plants, there isn't a whole lot written about them."

A mid-19th century magazine illustration showed little pompon mums or Chus'an daisies. The huge ones that developed into football mums were also popular. 'Bronze Giant' is one example from the 1930s that is still being sold.

"Older mums tend to bloom very late. Here are small flowered early

20th century mums that I picked on Thanksgiving last year. In fact, I had mums blooming in December last year. I picked some of one called 'Baby' and stuck them in our Christmas wreath.

"Most mums that we grow today are short, compact, flower filled forms like cushion mums. The older mums are more rangy things. They tend to get three or four feet tall even if you pinch them. The flowers are more scattered.

"'Baby', 1905, is the oldest named variety I have been able to find. 'Pink Dot', a small pink mum from the 1920s did not come back for me this year."

He showed 'Robert Wallace', 1937, which he had gotten rid of, replacing it with even older varieties he had discovered.

" In the 1920s and 1930s single mums like 'Robert Wallace' were considered to be naturalistic and informal in cottage gardens and many were developed.

"I put an article in the *Old West Side News* that I was interested in old plants and a Mrs. Zill on seventh street called me up about this wonderful, single pink mum that blooms late. I got a little piece. It may be 1950s or 1920s--who knows?"

When he moved in to his Old West Side home he found a little yellow anemone-flowered mum there with beautiful red foliage, late blooming, very scraggly.

"I don't know what it is. I may never be able to identify it, but it's old and I like it so I'm growing and preserving it."

'ADDING ON' IN BAY VIEW

Ann Arbor architect Dick Mitchell, owner of a Victorian cottage in the National Historic Landmark Community of Bay View near Petoskey, will give a slide talk about "Adding On" to old houses at 2 p.m. Sunday October 13, at 310 South Ashley. The Second Sunday Old House Clinic November 10 will be on "Electrical Work." Information about tickets: 665-2112.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found at the annual meeting last May were a set of silverware, a cup of Franciscan apple pattern and a small smoke colored bowl. To claim call 665-2242 or 662-9092.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

WCHS MUSEUM FUND RAISER...

(Continued from page 1)

tributors and Karen O'Neal has been speaking to civic groups telling them of our efforts.

During the week of October 13-20, we plan to have an OPEN HOUSE at 500 North Main Street to show our members and the public how work is progressing. Much of the exterior will be completed but the interior will be in progress. At this time we are not quite certain of the exact date, so watch for the announcement in the October *Impressions* and plan to join the festivities.

We are most grateful to Douglas Ziesemer of InvestAll and Fred Sanchez, office manager at 122 South Main Street, for contributing space for our campaign headquarters for a year. They have now rented Suite 250, so in July I moved my computer, printers, and other equipment to my apartment in Huron Towers.

Until MOMS is ready to be occupied next spring, the Washtenaw County Historical Society will operate out of my apartment. Office hours continue to be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the Society's telephone number is still 662-9092.

Please continue to call for information and assistance or drop-in to help with some of the office tasks--filers would be welcome as well as assistance in updating our mailing lists.

I look forward to when the Washtenaw County Historical Society finally opens it **Museum on Main Street**.

Pauline Walters
662-9092

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

WCHS will need a volunteer to organize, develop and run a museum gift shop when the museum opens, hopefully next spring. If you would like more information please call 662-9092.

TOPIC: PROBLEM SOLVING

David Werly, past-president of Northwest Genealogical Society of Toledo will talk on "Special Genealogical Problem Solving and Decision Making" at the Genealogy Society of Washtenaw County meeting at 1:45 p.m. Sunday, September 22, at Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts and Science Building, lecture hall 2. Class follows on "Organizing Your Genealogical Records."

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS INVOLVE:

FALL FESTIVAL, BARN DANCE, CRAFT SHOW, WORDEN

Chelsea Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. second Monday at Depot, South Main at railroad tracks. Quilt show at Depot, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, September 14.

Dexter Society: Museum, 3443 Inverness, open 1-3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Manchester: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 County Street.

Pittsfield Society: 2 p.m. first Sunday at Pittsfield town hall, State and Ellsworth Roads.

Salem Society: Annual barn dance, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, September 28, at 51828 Eight Mile Road. Thursday, October 24, regular meeting at home of Warren and June Todd, 8985 North Territorial Road at Weed Road. Program on "Worden Corner."

Saline Society: 7 p.m. third Wednesday at Senior Center, 7605 North Maple Road.

Webster Society: Fall Festival 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, September 28, at Webster Church and Farrell Roads, one mile south of North Territorial. Country craft show (25 artisans), blacksmithing demonstration, hay rides, country store and bake sale, antique showcase and more. Luncheon 11-2 p.m. Pig roast 5-7 p.m.

This Society will meet at 7:45 p.m. Monday, October 14, in the Blacksmith Shop. The program will be a recap of history work done and future plans.

Ypsilanti Society: Various crafts will be demonstrated free to the public 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, October 5, at the Museum, 220 North Huron. The Society's Indian collection is being renovated for a better display.

Board members will be elected at the annual meeting 2 p.m. Sunday, September 15, at the museum.

FORD'S 'DYNAMIC KERNELS' MILL AT MACON FEATURES PONCELET WHEEL THAT LED TO MODERN TURBINES

Henry Ford, who did so much to motorize America, in his later years restored a number of old water-powered mills in southeast Michigan and used most of them for village industries.

But he built at least one old-style mill new in 1944 at Macon near Tecumseh. It is called the "Dynamic Kernels" mill. That mill, now owned by Henry Bednarz and Karen and Joe O'Neal, was the setting of the annual WCHS meeting in May that so many of you turned out to see.

Ford, had earlier restored the Hayden family mill in Tecumseh. "Dynamic Kernels" was a wheat-tithing project conceived by Perry Hayden, a miller there, who persuaded Ford to underwrite it, the owners explain in their information sheet given visitors.

Each participant was to plant one-cubic inch of wheat. Each year the enlarging harvest was to be replanted except for one-tenth to be sold and proceeds given to charity.

Ford built the mill to celebrate the fifth harvest of "Dynamic Kernels."

The mill had three forms of power. An 18-foot water wheel transformed the eight-foot head of Macon Creek into power to drive the mill. A boiler drove two steam engines. One, a horizontal compound engine, could drive the mill directly while the other powered two DC generators that charged a bank of batteries to make electricity for the mill.

The present owners plan to restore the mill to make it operable as it was when Henry Ford last visited.

After Ford died, Ford Motor Company sold the mill. Later owners sold its engines, generators, brass boiler trim and milling equipment.

Then Eugene and Jim Eldredge, who owned it from 1967-84, located and re-installed the original milling equipment which had been sold to Pepperidge Farm Company.

The owners have on display a photograph of the original engines. They would like to find similar ones, also boiler parts and DC generators.

Joe O'Neal thought the water wheel "looked too skinny and out of proportion." When the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills visited a couple of years ago, he discovered his wheel was a rare example of a significant historical link in the development of water power called a Poncelet wheel.

Courtesy of the O'Neals

Henry Ford built this 'Dynamic Kernels' mill near Macon in 1944 to celebrate the fifth wheat harvest of a tithing project conceived by Tecumseh miller Perry Hayden. Karen and Joe O'Neal now own it with Hank Bednarz and they are restoring it.

Before that, flat paddles were pushed or small buckets filled and most energy lost to heat. Poncelet narrowed the wheel, curved the blades, and channeled water directly under the bottom of the wheel. That doubled the power.

However, the Poncelet wheel was only used for five or ten years. Why so? Because, if you place his wheel on its side, pass water through it vertically and use the entire interior perimeter, not just a small part of the bottom you have today's turbines used for water and steam power, in airplanes, etc.

A Monsieur Fourneyron did exactly that soon after Poncelet's wheel was developed.

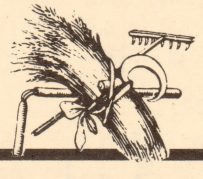
Henry Ford had become intrigued with Poncelet's success in the early 1800s with low head flows. Because of that, the mill owners now have one of the few, possibly the best, copies of a Poncelet wheel.

The mill was built to Ford's high standards. The first and second floors have two-inch tongue-and-groove maple flooring and solid pine paneling. There are fieldstone walls and a brick floor in the basement.

There is also an 1850 Greek Revival house built at a different location on the property, moved to its present site nearby and renovated when the mill was built.

Ford had taken a special interest in the nearby town of Macon in his later years. He and his wife also had a summer home there.

If any readers have information about where to find old engines, boiler parts and DC generators, O'Neal asks that you contact him at 1920 Scottwood Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, telephone 313-665-2242.



CONFERENCE AT MARSHALL

The Historical Society of Michigan's 117th annual meeting will be October 18-20 at historic Marshall, Michigan. Information: (313) 769-1828.

THANKS MUSEUM BUILDING FUND DONORS TO DATE

Approximately 250 persons, businesses and organizations have donated to the Museum on Main Street Building Fund or given in kind products and services through August. All are from Ann Arbor unless otherwise indicated.

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Andrea, Catherine
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Olson, Mary & Nels R.
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Oyer, Willa M. & John P.
O'Neal, Karen & Joe E.
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If we missed you and your name belongs here, please call 662-9092.

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I/We pledge a tax deductible gift to the Museum On Main Street Building Fund

in the sum of $_____ to be paid in _____equal portions in the years 1991 + 1992

Attached is my/our pledge for 1991: $_____ check #: _____ Signature _____

Please make checks payable to Museum On Main Street Building Fund (no cash, please) and mail to:

Attention: Mr. Eugene Fowler / NBD - Ann Arbor
P.O. Box 8601 / Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8601

___ Please have a WCHS member call me - I need more information **1991 Contribution / Pledge Card**

1992 Washtenaw County Historical Society

2200 Fuller Road, 1202 B
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-2307
(313) 662-9092

Please enroll me / us as a member from **January 1 to December 31, 1992**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Type of Membership

___	Student	$ 5
___	Teacher	5
___	Individual	10
___	Family / Couple	18
___	Senior Citizen	8
___	Senior Couple	14
___	Association / Commercial	25
___	Sustaining	50
___	Patron	100

Student: up to 18 years old or in college
Senior Citizen: 60 years or older
Senior Couple: one member 60+

WCHS 1991-92 CALENDAR

WCHS meetings planned for 1991-92 include:

October, date sometime 13-20th to be announced—open house at Museum on Main Street, 500 North Main.

November 17—"History of Ann Arbor's Libraries" by Dr. Ramon Hernandez, director of the Ann Arbor Public Library, at the newly enlarged library, 343 South Fifth Avenue, (The grand opening will be 1-4:30 p.m. Sunday, October 27.)

December. No meeting.

January 19—"Local Greek Revival Architecture." Speaker: Mary Culver.

February 16—"Early Michigan Railroad Stations." Speaker: Sam Breck.

March 15—"Early Development of St. Joseph's Hospital." Speaker: Joyce Williams.

April 26—"The Argus Camera Company History," in the restored Argus Building, 515 West William.

May 13—Annual meeting. More details to come.

June 13—Annual tour. More details to come.

WCHS ART FAIR PARKING PROJECT EARNS $1,660

Thanks to Great Lake Bancorp and 24 volunteers WCHS earned $1,660.25 parking cars after hours in the two bank lots during the 1991 Ann Arbor Art Fair.

Thanks to Peter Rocco for organizing the materials, starting the "parkers" off each day and shepherding the monies collected.

"Parkers" included Rosemarion Blake, Patty and Bob Creal, Elsie Dyke, Liz Elling, Marty Evashevski, Lucille Fisher, Lois Foyle, Marquerite Harms, Marge Hepburn, Doug Kelley, and Dan and Mary Lirones.

Others were Nancy McKinney, Barbara Mueller, Karen O'Neal, Jay Snyder, Pam and Yasser Tabbaa, Pauline Walters, Susan Wineberg, Alice and Larry Ziegler.

Note: Dan Lirones died August 18, 1991. We are grateful that Dan was able to take part in our endeavors this year. Mary, we send our heartfelt condolences.

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NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 22
2 P.M.

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